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JAPANESE ECONOMIC DESIGNS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND VIET NAM

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THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS GIVE TIT FOR TAT

It was Nixon himself who decided the November 21-22 air raids against the DRVN. 350 US aircraft flown from bases in Thailand, from aircraft-carriers off the Tonking Gulf operated for 27 hours running. The chosen targets were situated in many provinces, some of them not far from Hanoi. Melvin Laird at first beat about the bush and, when unmasked, was forced to admit that his men had attempted an unsuccessful coup against a camp of captured American pilots.

The action was just like Mr Nixon – an outburst of adventurism and cynism, and, as usual, the war act was compounded with lies, equivocations and threats. Melvin Laird was mendacious when he first declared that the bombings had been merely conducted against the areas south of the 19th parallel. It was a pure piece of double-talk on his part when he alleged the necessity of retaliation for the downing of a US drone by North Viet Nam AA defence, or talked of "protective reaction," "defense of GIs in South Viet Nam" and "understanding" with the DRVN.

The DRVN Government has time and again made plain that the halt of US bombings was absolutely unconditional. An independent and sovereign country can only counteract vigorously against all encroachments upon, or unauthorized flights over, its national territory. As for the safety of the GIs, the best way to see to it is to bring all of them home in the shortest delay, isn't it?

The phrase "protective reaction" was used by Washington to mean military operations against the South Vietnamese patriotic forces, and the American press pointed out that it was a euphemism for "maximum military pressure." Those air strikes against the DRVN, long premeditated, were integral part of the Pentagon's present strategy. Washington still wants to secure a position of strength on the battlefield and, hence, at the conference table, so as to impose on the Vietnamese a Pax Americana.

With threats against the North, "maximum military pressure" on the South with stepped-up "Vietnamization" and preparation of plans for large-scale operations in the coming dry season, "maximum military pressure" on Cambodia with the eventual granting of a new military aid amounting to 155 million dollars, in all awareness that "dollars led to blood," as Senator Frank Church has remarked, and "maximum military pressure" on Laos in the form of intensified bombardments, including by B.52s, over the Lao liberated zone, Nixon's protestation of peace is in fact prolongation and extension of the war.

Six US planes were brought down. The Vietnamese defence forces were not taken unawares, nor were they scared. The North Vietnamese people will unfailingly continue giving their Southern kith and kin all necessary assistance. Inroads of any kind into the DRVN will surely meet with relevant response. So long as there remain American soldiers in South Viet Nam, the patriotic forces will not let them be. Such a surprise coup as the Nov. 21-22 one can lead nowhere. Nobody can cow or fool the Vietnamese people. They will always give tit for tat.

Samdech Penn Nouth Visits the DRVN

At the invitation of Premier Pham Van Dong, Samdech Chairman of the FUNK CC Politbureau and Prime Minister of the Cambodian National Union Royal Government, and Madame Penn Nouth, paid a visit to the DRVN from November 12 to 21, 1970. They were accompanied by General Duong Sam Ol, FUNK CC Politbureau member and Minister of Military Equipment and Armament and Madame Duong Sam Ol; Thioun Mumm, FUNK CC Politbureau member and Minister of Economy and Finance; Keat Chhon, alternate member and Secretary of the FUNK CC Politbureau and Minister of the Premier's Office; Hak Seang Layny, FUNK CC member and Deputy-Minister for Foreign Affairs; Heng Pich, FUNK CC member and Deputy-Minister of Military Equipment and Armament; Sien An, FUNK CC member and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Cambodian Kingdom to the DRVN; and Ken Aun, Secretary General of the Ministry of Popular Education and Youth.

Ton Duc Thang, President of the DRVN and Chairman of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, received Samdech Penn Nouth and his party.

Le Duan, First Secretary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee and Premier Pham Van Dong held cordial talks with the Cambodian Prime Minister. During their stay in the DRVN, the distinguished Cambodian guests visited the exhibition "Twenty-five Years' Combat and Construction of the DRVN," a Vietnamese Air Force unit, the Faculties of Medicine and Pharmacy, the Hanoi Pioneers' Club and an agricultural co-operative in Ha Tay province. Mme Penn Nouth and Mme Duong Sam Ol had friendly interviews with leaders of the Viet Nam Women's Union and visited *Mam Non* (Young Shoots), an infant school in Hanoi.

On November 21, 1970 a communiqué on Samdech Penn Nouth's visit to the DRVN was made public in Hanoi. Praising the great achievements of the Vietnamese and Cambodian

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The Engineering Workshop of Vinh Phu province making pumps for agricultural co-ops.

Stages and Problems of Industrialization *in DRVN*

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RSVN Foreign Ministry Flays US Air Raids on North Viet Nam

IN a statement released on November 22, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Viet Nam scored the "US imperialists' extremely serious acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam." It warned the US aggressors that "every criminal move taken by them against the DRVN will meet with a riposte five or ten times stronger by the South Vietnamese people and armed forces."

ALL US WAR ACTS WILL BE MET WITH DUE FORCE

Digest of a Quan Doi Nhan Dan *(People's Army) commentary, November 26, 1970*

AFTER committing on Nov. 21 war crimes against the DRVN, the US authorities have made many statements on the subject.

First of all, Defence Secretary M. Laird said they were "protective reaction" attacks against AA positions, measures of "protection of unarmed reconnaissance planes," "air raids south of the 19th parallel," etc. He affirmed that those strikes had been carried out far from Hanoi and Hai Phong. On Nov.23 Laird told a different story, saying that US air raids had been at 35km from Hanoi, that they had been motivated by the desire to "rescue American pilots" captured in North Viet Nam.

Four different statements in three days: all this has proved that the American authorities had been caught napping and found themselves in an awkward position while showing a high degree of craftiness.

Unable to cover up their offence against North Viet Nam, Nixon and his gang had to achnowledge them. However, by invoking the "rescue" of American airmen, Laird believed he would be able to touch the chauvinistic chord of his fellow-countrymen and present his war crimes as "humane" actions and the serious violations of the sovereignty of another country as the "trivial" story of a rescue operation.

When they feel the need to hoodwink public opinion and hush up their bellicosity, Nixon and company always resort to the "prisoner" trick to stir up the Americans' feeling. It is recalled that Johnson had engineered the "attack on US war ships" story to give green light to air raids against the DRVN. Nixon has proved himself to be a match to his predecessor by concocting such fables as "violation by North Viet Nam of a tacit agreement," "reprisals to protect American servicemen," etc., and now the "rescue of prisoners," in order to vindicate his acts of sabotage against North Viet Nam going from bombing to commando raids, and from the "panhandle" to the hinterland of North Viet Nam.

The attempts said to "liberate American pilots" and the fierce bombardments conducted by hundreds of US planes on Nov. 21 were particularly serious acts of aggression. Melvin Laird had the cheek to declare that the US would reiterate them when necessary. Thus, his acknowledgement of such crimes was not to put an end to them but rather to prepare the public for future adventures aimed at helping the "Vietnamization" plan in South Viet Nam; this is an unmistakable indication of the obstinacy of the US rulers in prolonging and intensifying their war of aggression in Viet Nam and Indochina.

The Vietnamese people warn the US imperialists that their war crimes will be duly punished. The US had no right whatsoever to strike at any target on any parallel in the DRVN. Our country has been giving the captured American pilots a humane treatment and seeing to their safety. On account of their adventurous war acts, the US aggressors have to answer for the lives of these pilots.

DRVN NEWS IN BRIEF

● The Party and DRVN Government leaders sent on Nov. 23 to their **Soviet** counterparts a congratulatory message on the safe landing on the Moon of the Soviet automatic station "Luna 17." It emphatically said that it was a wonderful achievement of man's intelligence, of Soviet space technique and science which have supplied fresh facilities for cosmos exploration and conquest.

● On Nov.21, the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee sent warm congratulations to the **10th Congress of the Hungarian Workers' Socialist Party.**

A VNWP delegation, headed by Hoang Van Hoan, Politbureau member, has arrived in Budapest to attend the gathering.

● An accord on non-repayable economic and military aid from the **Korean People's Democratic Republic** to Viet Nam for 1971 was concluded on Nov.19 in Pyong Yang by the economic delegations of the two countries. The DRVN delegation led by Nguyen Con, VNWP CC Secretary and Vice-Premier, who had signed the agreements after negotiating others with the **Chinese People's Republic**, the **USSR** and the **Czechoslovak Socialist Republic**, returned to Hanoi on Nov.25.

● A DRVN delegation, led by Tran Danh Tuyen, Vice-Chairman of the Viet Nam Committee of Solidarity with Afro-Asian Peoples and Vice-Chairman of the Viet Nam Trades-Union Federation, has paid a friendship visit to **Cuba**.

● At the invitation of the DRVN State Committee of Science and Technique and the Committee for Investigation of US War Crimes in Viet Nam, Professor Doctor Gerhard Grummer of the **GDR** has arrived in Hanoi to study harmful effects of the chemical warfare the Pentagon has been conducting for years in Viet Nam.

● On Nov. 20, a delegation of the **International Union of Students** (IUS), led by Medhi Ahmed, its Secretary General, arrived in Hanoi on a friendly visit to the DRVN at the invitation of the Viet Nam Students, National Union.

● A **GDR** ensemble, led by Gunther Vahala, Director of the GDR Institute of Arts, arrived in the DRVN and has given a number of performances here.

● On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the **Venezuelan** People (Nov. 21), the daily *Nhan Dan* (the People), central organ of the VNWP, has run an article praising the Venezuelans' fight against the American imperialists and the Caracas dictatorial and reactionary administration.

● As relief for our fellow-countrymen in provinces of Central Trung Bo, victims of the recent cataclysms:

— The March 8 Textile Mill has launched a drive for an extra-million metres of material;

— In the Pharmaceutical Products Enterprise No. 1, an emulation movement for 10 additional tons of medicaments is now in full swing;

— The workers and staff of the Hanoi Engineering Plant have put in extra hours the proceeds of which will go to the relief fund.

● The Viet Tri Paper Mill fulfilled on October 30 the State plan of production for 1970 two months before schedule. Some norms of the plan were exceeded: 100.4 per cent for gross output value, 100. 76 per cent for paper, 104.6 per cent for labour productivity. The production cost was cut by 2 per cent more than foreseen.

● Early in November, the Ministry of Agriculture convened a conference on the intensification of cross-breeding of pigs in the years 1971-1973. The herd of crossbred pigs in North Viet Nam at present runs to 100,000. Hanoi takes the lead with 70,000 head. Ha Bac and Nam Ha rank second and third. Breeding is most developed in provinces of the delta and coastal areas.

Samdech PENN NOUTH...

(*Continued from page 1*)

peoples in all fields since the Cambodian Premier's first trip to the DRVN last June, the communiqué reaffirmed the adherence of the two parties to the sacred commitments formulated in the April 25, 1970 communiqué of the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference and the June 7, 1970 joint communiqué of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Kingdom of Cambodia and expressed the conviction that the comradeship-in-arms among the Cambodian, Vietnamese and Lao peoples would be consolidated and strengthened with every passing day on the basis of mutual respect, in the common effort to bring the just cause of the three peoples to final victory and of long-term cooperation in the building of their respective countries, each according to its own way.

Paris Conference 93rd Session Postponed

THE DRVN Government Delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam will not attend the 93rd session scheduled for Nov. 25 as a protest against the US war acts against the DRVN on November 21 and the morning of the following day, Minister Xuan Thuy announced in a press conference held on Nov. 23 in Paris.

It was also made known that the session will be postponed to December 3, 1970.

THE Delegation of the Republic of South Viet Nam Provisional Revolutionary Government also stayed away from the scheduled Nov. 25 session of the Paris Conference, which consequently did not take place.

The D.R.V.N. is 25 Years Old

STAGES AND PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION

NGUYEN XUAN LAI

(Concluded)

IV – PRODUCTION OF CONSUMER GOODS

THE war left the country heavily devastated in 1954. In addition to privations and destructions, the peasants in many provinces were threatened by floods and typhoons.

In urban centres, the ranks of the unemployed swelled to about 130,000; black market and under-hand transactions of necessities sent prices sky-high.

Apart from rice, the population had to be urgently supplied with consumer goods.

The first factories to be put back into operation were the mills producing cotton, silk and woollen goods, and paper, the breweries and distilleries. Meanwhile great efforts were made to re-open the coal mines and cement plant for exports, which made it possible to import consumer goods and raw materials for light industry.

As the population's needs grew, chiefly those of the peasants whose standard of living had been raised after land reform and agricultural co-operation, many new items were required for local use. It was from 1958 onward that new factories have been built to turn out paper, refined sugar, matches, soap, tea, foodstuffs, rubber goods, plywood, plastics, school and office articles, earthenwares, aluminium goods, enamelled wares, vacuum flasks, electric bulbs, hosiery, canned foods, together with cooking oil works, rice mills, weaving mills. Old works have been modernized.

In the decade ending 1964, the manufacture of consumer goods made notable progress with an average rise of 22.4 per cent per year. At the end of 1964, its share in the value of agricultural and industrial output was 34 per cent, meeting about 80 per cent of the local needs. The import of consumer goods was 54.7 per cent in 1955 and only 16.8 per cent in 1963.

To obtain these results, the State has invested in this sector important sums amounting to 25 per cent of the total industrial investments:

Investments in the manufacture of consumer goods (1955-1957: 100)

1958-1960	306
1961-1964	378

More main commodities in 1965 (1960: 100)

— Salt	133.5
— Fish sauce	116.2
— Raw sugar	128.5
— Refined sugar	1,319
— Cigarettes	225.5
— Tea	179.5
— Rice alcohol	157
— Beer	345.4
— Textiles	119.0
— Mosquito-netting	128.5
— Glasswares	292.2
— Soap	131.9
— Match-boxes	115.8
— Foolscap paper	591.8
— Bicycles	305.3

The people's needs have been satisfied mostly by local industry, particularly handicrafts whose time-honoured traditions and products suit the taste and purchasing power of the broad masses.

On the market "made in Viet Nam" articles have gradually replaced "made in France" goods. People drink now "Truc Bach" or "Hanoi" beer instead of BGI's "Hommel" beer, and smoke "Dien Bien" or "Tam Dao" cigarettes instead of "Gauloise" or "Melia." The Nam Dinh and "March 8th" textile factories turn out poplin and gabardine. "Thong Nhat" bicycles are seen on all roads and paths.

At the Phu Tho Tea Factory.

It is quite a novelty that most of these articles which were formerly used only by some strata of town-folk (civil servants, rich merchants, the professional classes) and landlords, are now within reach of the broad toiling masses.

Fifteen years ago, most of the peasants wore only rags and tatters from father to son, or clothes cast off by well-off relatives. In time of heavy crops, they could buy for their children only thin clothing, and could never afford mosquito-nets and blankets.

However, from 1960 on, they have had all decent clothes, mosquito-nets, blankets, utensils, furniture, chinawares, even a bicycle when a bumper crop permits.

The per capita consumption has visibly risen in the last few years. Compared with 1955, the percentages in 1964 were:

— Salt	117.9
— Fish sauce	262.9
— Raw and refined sugar	191.3
— Cigarettes	166.7
— Textiles (for clothing)	125
— Mosquito-netting	563.7
— Soap	350
— Paper	254.6

Despite the advances, the national production of consumer goods was not however in proportion to the needs of the population and their goods' quality was not yet up to international standard. But this was already a step forward, considering that formerly everything had to be imported from France, including nails, needles and sewing cotton.

A mat co-op of Thanh Lam (Thai Binh province).

V – TRAINING OF TECHNICIANS AND SKILLED WORKERS

IN this respect, the heritage left was well nigh negative: there in North Viet Nam at the end of 1954 but 23 engineers (two in light industry) and some 10,000 industrial workers. At the Hongay coal mines for instance, one found only 30 middle-level technicians as against 21 engineers and 62 technicians formerly.

The problem was at once vigorously attended to with the immediate opening of technical colleges and intermediate vocational schools, crash and correspondence courses, sending former militants of the resistance war to refresher courses in socialist countries.

At the end of 1965, industry was manned by a large technical and managerial personnel and skilled workers; at that time there was in industry one engineer for 40 and one middle-level technician for 13 workers as against 800 and 33 respectively in 1957.

Ratios of technicians and shilled workers per 1,000 factory and clerical workers (end of 1965)

Technicians	**75.3**
from technical colleges	10.5
from intermediate vocational schools	47.1
from crash courses	17.7
Skilled workers	**522**

However, the technical standard of personnel hurriedly trained in a country which has a nascent industry is far from being up to the mark. Nevertheless since 1965, Viet Nam has been equipped with an initial structure to accelerate industrialization. Technical assistance of other socialist countries has made good the shortcomings and inexperience of our technical personnel.

VI – FACING AMERICAN BOMBS

IN 1965, as a result of the US air war of destruction against North Viet Nam, her industry was faced with two new tasks: *to simultaneously carry out the fighting and production*, which were closely linked to one another. In this new conjuncture the country could not only rely on its own powers strengthened by many years of socialist industrialization, but also on the substantial aid granted by the socialist countries and other progressive peoples.

Owing to the new economic trend, industrialization was carried out on a new basis, a new scale, and at a tempo readjusted to wartime in order to reinforce the economic potential and national defence and pave the way for future development.

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WORLD OPINION INDIGNANT AT US RAIDS AGAINST DRVN

THE recent air raids carried out by the US on Nov. 21 against the DRVN have aroused a wrathful indignation in the world.

• On Nov. 24, the Foreign Ministry of the **PR of China**, issued a statement stressing that the barbarous bombardments of the DRVN by the US have shown the most deceptive character of its statements on the "total cessation" of bombings against North Viet Nam. The statement reaffirmed the determination of the Chinese government and of 700 million Chinese people to "do their best to help the Vietnamese people's struggle till total victory."

• The statement of the Foreign Ministry of the **DPR of Korea** dated Nov. 23 said: "All these acts eloquently testify that the recent air raids, mounted by the US imperialists against the DRVN, are linked to their monstrous scheme to step up their war of aggression in Viet Nam and other Indochinese countries, and that the phoney 'peace proposal' made by Nixon, the ringleader of US imperialism, is but a demagogic move to smokescreen his criminal plots."

• On November 27, the **German Democratic Republic** government made public a statement saying that "the US has brazenly broken the promise made in 1968 that it ends totally and unconditionally the bombing, strafing and other war acts against the DRVN. It seriously endangers the Paris Conference on Viet Nam."

• In the **Soviet Union**, the Moscow press and radio have run articles in which strong protests have been raised against Washington's foolish adventure. On Nov. 23, *TASS* said of these serious provocations that they utterly run counter to the statements made by Washington with regard to its "peaceful intent" in Viet Nam. The same agency added that the Soviet Union supports wholeheartedly the DRVN government position and demanded that the US government end all acts infringing on the sovereignty and security of the DRVN.

• On Nov. 23, in his report to the 10th Congress of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party held in Budapest, Janos Kadar, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the **Hungarian** SWP pointed out: "A new fact among the repeated and continual provocative acts of the US was its recent predatory air raids over the DRVN. These war acts show that the imperialist policy of the US will have no future."

• In a speech delivered on Nov. 24 at the same congress, V.Gomulka, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the **Polish** United Workers' Party, said: "Together with the other brother socialist countries, we strongly protest against the policy of aggression of imperialism, the most recent proof of which was the bombardment of the DRVN. We energetically condemn these acts of provocation."

• In **Laos**, on Nov. 25, the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front made public a statement saying among other things: "Following the fiasco of its Vietnamization policy, the US government has committed a foolish and desperate act which does great violence to its pledge to stop unconditionally the bombings and other acts of provocation against the DRVN. This is a serious violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of that country. It exposes once more the perfidy of the theory of the US Defence Secretary Melvin Laird on "protective reaction."

• In **Colombo**, Silva, member of the Politbureau of the Communist Party of Ceylon, reaffirmed the solidarity of the Cingalese communists with the Vietnamese people and demanded that the US imperialists stop all acts of aggression.

• In **France**, on Nov. 21, the Politbureau of the CC of the French Communist Party stressed in a statement that the US had committed a most serious act of aggression.

On its part, the French government, through its spokesman, expressed its "regrets" regarding these US air raids which, it said, neither end the war nor create favourable conditions for a negotiated settlement.

• In **Italy**, Luigi Longo and Enrico Berlinguer, Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General of the Italian Communist Party, have requested the Italian Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister "to send to the US government the protest and indignation of the Italian people with regard to these bombardments."

• In **London**, the members of the Conference of the London organization of the British Communist Party have castigated the resumption of US bombings in North Viet Nam and urged all peace fighters to organize forthwith concerted actions against this aggression.

• In the **United States**, many papers have run commentaries taking to task Nixon's policy and demanded that it should be ended. Many senators have raised their voice, strongly condemning the Nov.21 air raids.

Mike Mansfield, Democrat majority leader at the Senate, said the "attacks represented a renewed US involvement in Viet Nam" and expressed concern that they "might delay a peace settlement."

Senator George Mc Govern, Democrat of Dakota, described the raids as "beyond belief." He said, "It is sheer folly to believe anything can be accomplished by renewing them... The lessons of earlier bombing efforts are a wider war, more casualties and reduced hopes for an early end to a war that has never served our national interest."

• In **Saigon**, the President of the Women's Movement for the Right To Live and many Buddhist priests of An Quang Pagoda and Van Hanh Institute have protested against the crimes committed by the US on Nov.21 against North Viet Nam. A lawyer said: "The overwhelming majority of peace-loving Vietnamese are indignant at such bombardments. These acts of war show that Nixon's 5-point peace program is but a perfidious scheme and not a true effort to end the war."

• Many international and national organizations such as the **World Peace Council**, the **Mongolian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee**, the **France – Viet Nam Friendship Association**, the **British – Viet Nam Solidarity Front**, the **Italian Communist Youth Union**, the **Executive Committee of the Union of Swedish Social-Democratic Youth**, the **US Peace Fighters' National Coalition** and the **Indian Peace Fighters' Organization**, etc., have raised their voice against US recent bombardments of North Viet Nam.

• In **Japan, Denmark, India, Finland, Sweden**, demonstrations have been held in many cities against Washington's policy. On November 22, about 12,000 people demonstrated in Tokyo. In Copenhagen, 2,000 people picketed the US Embassy. In New Delhi and Helsinki, the US Embassies were besieged by hundreds of students. The US Chamber of Commerce in Stockholm was ransacked by over 200 Swedes.

• In **Paris**, on the evening of Nov.26, under the sponsorship of 40 progressive organizations and the French Communist Party, 50,000 people staged a march of protest against the US Nov.21 bombardments of North Viet Nam. The demonstrators displayed slogans demanding that the US withdraw immediately and unconditionally its troops from South Viet Nam.

Vietnamese and foreign pressmen examining American missile splinters on the field of Thuy Phuong co op (Hanoi suburb) after the November 21, 1970 air raid.

JAPANESE ECONOMIC DESIGNS *in Southeast Asia and Viet Nam*

SECOND biggest economic power in the capitalist world, Japan is also the most important ally of the US in the Vietnamese and Asian problems. A survey of her policy in various respects is therefore imperative. We have dealt with the revival of Japanese militarism (Viet Nam Courier No.283). *For the time being Japanese imperialism nurtures, above all, economic designs. As this economic policy of Japan concerning Viet Nam is within the framework of her expansion in Southeast Asia, the first part of this article is devoted to Southeast Asia.*

1- EXPANSION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

AMBITIONS OF JAPANESE CAPITALISM

A highly industrialized nation and neighbour of many developing countries, Japan is faced with two choices: either co-operate on the basis of respect of sovereignty of each country for mutual profit, or use neo-colonialist methods for imperialist exploitation of these countries.

Besides, at a time when the US is stepping up its intervention in that part of the world, the alternative for Japan is either to take a stand against US imperialism for the common defence of the region, or to work hand in glove with the US for the benefit of her own expansion.

The Japanese monopolics have opted for the second course. In fact, after the release of the Nixon-Sato communiqué on November 22, 1969, Tokyo continued to toe the US line militarily, politically and economically. During his stay in Washington, Sato declared without further ado that "a new age or new order will be created by Japan and the US in the Pacific." For the first time since the end of World War II, a Japanese government officially undertook to "defend" the security of South Korea and Taiwan... Faced with many difficulties in the scotching of the national liberation movement in Asia, chiefly in its aggression in Indochina, US imperialism needs the assistance of the former "Rising Sun Empire" which, for all its economic might, always remains under US sway.

Japanese demonstrating against US-Sato administration collusion.

Nevertheless, in face of a mounting powerful anti-war movement in Japan, the Tokyo rulers apparently and for the time being content themselves with making the best of a bad situation with an eye to her economic expansion in Southeast Asia. Their ambition is great. In a document approved at its last Convention in February 1970, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party clearly showed its intention to see Japan "play the leading role in Asia" and "contribute, according to her possibilities, to the development of Asian countries along a right path." Besides, the monopoly press and some tycoons begin to revive the "co-prosperity sphere" concept in Asia with Japan as epicentre. Japanese capitalism is encouraged in this respect by the US, for, as made clear in the report of the delegation of the House of Representatives under Montgomery (1), its economic expansion is closely related to the stemming of "communist inroad" in that area. It is no secret that, with the returns of their important investments in Japanese firms, the US monopolies feather their own nests, thanks to this policy. The *New York Times* wrote on March 2, 1970 that Sato's Foreign Ministry had begun co-ordinating its secret actions with the State Department's on economic and technical "aid."

EXPANSION AND ITS CHARACTERISTICS

IMPORTS of raw materials for industrial needs and growing exports of manufactured goods are the essential feature of the relations between Japan and Southeast Asian countries. Highly industrialized but having a poor soil and subsoil, Japan must buy a considerable quantity of raw materials. Since 1962, taking advantage of the under-developed state of her customers, she managed to rake 76 per cent of iron ore, 95 per cent of bauxite, 63 per cent of manganese, 60 per cent of chromium, 97 per cent of tin, 73 per cent of timber, 86 per cent of rubber, 91 per cent of flax and hemp (2). In 1969, she laid hands on all the iron ore exported by Malaysia, 80 per cent of timber and copper of the Philippines, 70 per cent of maize and 30 per cent of rubber of Thailand, over 30 per cent of Indonesian petroleum.

In exchange, she sells a great variety of finished products, mostly for daily use rather than for technical development: touring cars, TV sets, transistors, linen, sportsware. She also supplies the pro-US Saigon, Phnom Penh, Vientiane, Bangkok regimes with a substantial amount of military goods to quell the people's movements there. From 48 per cent in 1967, the value of exports to those regimes rose to 55 per cent in 1969 of the total value of Japanese exports in the world. Many countries, such as Thailand, the Philippines, Taiwan, Indonesia, South Viet Nam, buy from her at least 30 per cent of their imported goods (3). And the trade balance is always in favour of Japanese firms. Thus in 1967, importing from Thailand goods to the value of 3 million *baht*, Japan sold her a volume of commodities worth 8,046 million, or a difference of 5,046 million in her favour; in 1969, that difference grew to 5,400 million and it will probably reach 7,000 million *baht* this year (4). From 1964 to 1968, Japanese foreign trade earned the Japanese monopolies profits of the order of 5 billion dollars, of which 2 billion were brought in 1969 alone.

Another mode of expansion consists in exporting capital under the form of direct investments or "aid." This leads to a tighter control over the local natural resources and at the same time to the exploitation of the dirt cheap manpower whose wages fluctuated, depending on each country, between one-fifth and one-third of those of Japanese workers. Still modest in 1968 (about 70 million dollars), the export of capitals quintupled in 1969 (360 million for Asia, especially Southeast Asia). It skyrocketed in the Philippines where, from 15 million dollars in July 1968, it went up to 133 million, or three times that of the US during the same period (5). In Taiwan, Japan also ranks as the first financier credited with 60 per cent of foreign investments and party to 377 agreements between 1952 and 1969. In Indonesia, where she came second in 1969 with 124 million and 25 agreements, she is going to get the top place. As reckoned by the Sato government which plans to boost its exports of capital from 1.49 billion in 1968 to 4 billion in 1975 (1 per cent of GNP), its expansion in Southeast Asia will take considerable proportions.

The investments are notably made in the form of participation in the development of local raw materials by joint enterprises in which, due to the size of their shares, the Japanese capitalists have a casting vote.

With regard to "aid" in which private capital also takes part, it is granted in the form of technical assistance consisting of equipment for enterprises satisfying the requirements of Japanese monopolies. It is refunded with raw materials.of course. on advantageous terms. The technical training and utilization of Japanese specialists are another important aspect of this "aid." They enable Japan to maintain lasting relations with "recipient" countries, to increase her exports of machinery and moreover to set up a valuable network of economic and other intelligence. Twenty-one technical training centres have been put into operation which, up to 1967, schooled 7,972 people including 1,310 Taiwanese, 1,252 Thais, 1,193 Indonesians and 695 Filipinos. Meanwhile, 940 Japanese technicians worked in various countries in the area for a period between six months and two years.

Then, though on a temporary basis, the war reparations play quite an important role in foreign "aid." While improving political relations, they help economic expansion. Tokyo will have to pay up to 1.4 billion dollars of damages until 1975. In 1969, it already paid about one billion. The war reparations from Japan to some Southeast Asian countries, the *Yomiuri* candidly wrote on November 27, 1967, have to some extent brought about "the subordination of the economy of these countries to Japanese industry."

"AN INVISIBLE ECONOMIC EMPIRE IN ASIA"

THE phrase is by the *Bangkok Post's*. "Invisible" is rather a euphemism, given the scale of the expansion of the Japanese monopolies, the way in which they carry it out and the elaboration of their future plans. This is likely to touch off some resistance even from the compradore business circles and governments of dependent countries.

In face of the dumping of Japanese goods, the Secretary General of the Thai Investment Board requested the Thai government to restrict Japanese influence and curb the mushrooming of Japanese firms. To partially tide over its financial difficulties, the Thai government has raised from 30 to 80 per cent the taxes on some 200 commodities. "This is tantamount to banning Japanese goods," complained the Sanyo firm.

An Indonesian paper of the ruling military junta observed that while Honda motor cycles and "Sony" and "National" transistors swamped the markets of Southeast Asian countries, Japan showed no concern for their industrial development. The Americans are bad, everyone knows that; after the Americans come the Japanese, the paper added.

In Manila, a demonstration took place on February 17, 1970 in front of the Japanese Embassy with the slogan: "Either the Japanese do business honestly or they go home!"

Though Japanese businessmen regard Chiang Kai-shek who grants them special privileges as a "victorious general," their activities in Taiwan have been from time to time described as a means of "exploitation" and "economic colonialism" (6).

In its January 8, 1970 issue, the *Mainichi Shimbun* sounded the alert that, in a few years to come, unpleasant incidents, such as ransacking of embassies, would happen to Japan in some Southeast Asian countries.

(To be continued)

(1) *Report released on July 6, 1970.*

(2) *S.K. Ignatoshenko:* Japanese Monopolies' Economic Expansion, *Naouka, Moscow, 1966, pp. 172-193.*

(3) Mainichi, *March 2, 1970.*

(4) Far Eastern Economic Review, *No.13, March 26, 1970.*

(5) Economic Reporter, *Hongkong, April 20, 1970.*

(6) Far Eastern Economic Review *No. 13.*

UNRESERVED SUPPORT TO GUINEAN PEOPLE

The DRVN Foreign Ministry issued on Nov. 24 a statement concerning the Nov. 22 attack of the Portuguese colonialists by the agency of mercenaries against the capital of the Republic of Guinea. The statement said inter alia:

"IT was an impudent and extremely serious act of aggression by the Portuguese colonialists, grossly infringing upon the sovereignty and security of the Republic of Guinea. It was part of the moves of the colonialists and imperialists headed by the US against the Republic of Guinea and also against all the African peoples now fighting for the achievement and consolidation of national independence. It was an intolerable challenge to the African peoples and the peace- and justice- loving people in the world.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam indignantly and strongly condemn this attack by the imperialists and colonialists, and insist that they immediately put an end to their encroachments upon the sovereignty and security of the Republic of Guinea.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam unreservedly support the legitimate effort of the Guinean people under the leadership of President Sekou Toure, a valiant fighter of Africa who has constantly held high the banner of struggle against the imperialists and colonialists for independence, freedom and peace in Africa and the world as a whole."

ON Nov. 25, President Ton Duc Thang of the DRVN sent a congratulatory message to President Sekou Toure on the Guinean people's successful foiling of the above-mentioned colonialist assault.

AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLE'S SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION
Supports Indochinese Peoples

AT its 9th session at Tripoli from Nov. 9 to 11, 1970, the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization unanimously adopted a resolution warmly hailing the gains of the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples in their just resistance against US aggression for national salvation.

The resolution denounced the aggressive schemes and acts of US the imperialists and their henchmen in Viet Nam, Laos, and Cambodia, and called on all international and national organizations of peace and democracy and the freedom- and justice-loving people the world over:

— To condemn the continued US war of a aggression in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia; unmask the obstinate and bellicose attitude of the Nixon administration and condemn its war crimes in Indochina; condemn the US perfidious manoeuvres including the so-called "new peace initiative" of President Nixon; and demand that the United States put an end to its war of aggression, withdraw completely, rapidly and unconditionally the US and satellite troops from Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia;

— To fully support the Vietnamese people's effort and the 10-point overall solution of the NFL and the RSVN PRG as well as the Sept. 17 elaboration of the RSVN PRG on this overall solution;

— To give full support to the struggle of the Lao people and the 5-point political solution of the Lao Patriotic Front, and demand, first of all, the complete and unconditional cessation of the US bombardments on the entire territory of that country so that the Lao parties concerned may begin negotiations to settle the problems of their country;

— To unreservedly back the resistance of the Cambodian people under the leadership of the National United Front of Kampuchea and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia—the only legitimate and legal Government of the Khmer people — and give unqualified support for the 5-point Proclamation made on March 23, 1970 by Cambodian Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk;

— To intensify all kinds of actions and give stronger moral and material support to Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

News from CAMBODIA

⊙ A Khmer High-Ranking Personality Joins the FUNK

RECENTLY Sisowath Methavi, an ex-colonel of the Khmer Royal Armed Forces, President and Director General of "Air Royal Cambodge" and Ambassador of Cambodia to the German Democratic Republic, has made up his mind to join the National United Front of Kampuchea (FUNK) under Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia.

This decision was announced in his Nov. 18 statement to the press.

Sisowath Methavi accused the Lon Nol clique of sabotage of the independence of Cambodia, sabotaging her neutral and non-alignment policy and untold crimes against the Cambodian people.

He condemned the "Republic" created by the Lon Nol regime as an "imperialist scheme to maintain an administration traitorous to the Khmer nation and dupe Cambodian and world opinions."

⊙ Repression Against Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's Children

AFTER preventing Queen Kossamack from going abroad for medical care, of late the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak — Son Ngoc Thanh clique accused Prince Norodom Naradipo and Princess Bopha Botum, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's children, of "carrying out pro-communist activities."

According to Western agencies, the Phnom Penh administration has put the prince and princess under "house arrest" and threatened to summon them before a military court. It has organized a press campaign to smear them and Princess Bopha Devi, another daughter of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, in order to justify the repressive measures taken against them.

Commenting this fact, on November 17, the "Voice of FUNK" recalled the protest issued by the Camdodian National Union Royal Government and stressed: "This is a most inhuman act of the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak — Son Ngoc Thanh clique which tramples underfoot the elementary human rights, freedom and democracy. This act only unmasks the ugly nature of the traitors to the country before the Cambodian people and world opinion."

⊙ Successes of Khmer Patriotic Troops

ON the nights of Nov. 20 and 21, the Khmer National Liberation Armymen (KNLA), together with the guerillas and regional troops struck at Kirirom area, Kompong Speu province, and many Lon Nol units on Road No 4 linking Phnom Penh to Sihanoukville, the Cambodian Press Agency AKI *reported. They erased the CP of Kirirom sub-sector, killing a major, captured a colonel and a captain, wiped out three battalions, two companies, cut off and completely blocked the traffic on Road No 4. In the fierce battle for Pir Nin Hill, they knocked out two companies of Battalion 117 and took prisoner over 100 of their men. On Nov. 24 and 25, they destroyed two Lon Nol battalions at Kirirom dam, le colonel commanding one of these battalions was reported "missing." Thus in the Kirirom area, from Nov. 20 to 25, 1970, the Cambodian patriotic forces wiped out or routed five battalions. Four months ago, in the same area (Kirirom), the Phnom Penh troops had suffered heavy damage: in 17 days of KNLA relentless attacks, nine enemy battalions had been written off the muster roll. At that time,* AP *admitted that that area was the most bloody battlefield and the worst disaster for the Phnom Penh troops.*

Meanwhile, the patriotic forces attacked the enemy in many other localities: they heavily depleted a para-battalion on Road No 7 between Prey Totung and Skoul: of the 350 men of that battalion, only 40 survived, the commander was among the dead. According to AP *and* UPI, *on Nov. 24, the Cambodian patriotic forces tightened the noose around Siem Reap and shelled it all through that day. On Road No 6, the "only one linking that town to the outer world," on the night of Nov. 23, the patriotic troops rushed Puk district capital and held it till the next morning. Even Road No 5, Cambodia's main supply route, came under fire.*

This military situation caused great alarm among the enemy ranks. UPI *acknowledged on Nov. 23 that the series of actions staged by the patriotic forces in the last two weeks on Roads Nos 4 and 7 were the heaviest since July last and the situation in Cambodia was "disappointing." On the same day,* AP *was more pessimistic at a long list itemizing the setbacks of "Cambodian" (Lon Nol) troops in the last three days, mentioning the stampede of a para-battalion on Road No 7 and the loss of control of Road No 4 on which two battalions were decimated. The same agency admitted on Nov. 20 that the successes won by the Cambodian patriotic forces eloquently testified to their possibility to strike simultaneously at many localities and to bring the war within 10 kilometres from Phnom Penh.*

Mr Nixon, Set Angela Davis Free At Once!

ON the night of October 13, 1970, Angela Davis, a Black communist intellectual and civil rights and anti-war activist, was arrested by the US authorities on charges of "murder and kidnapping" in San Rafael (California). She was put in jail to a regime applied to most brutal convicted murderers.

Together with the assassination of twenty-eight Black leaders by the US authorities, this caused the concern among American and world public over her life. Many "Committees in Defence of Angela Davis" have been set up in the US and numerous demonstrations for her liberty have taken place in New York, Chicago, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Boston, Pittsburg, etc. Many progressive parties and organizations in Cuba, the GDR, France, Italy, Austria, Netherlands, India, etc., have protested against the Nixon administration's move.

The Vietnamese people strongly condemn Nixon's crackdown on Black people whose only crime is to be against racial discrimination and the US war of aggression in Viet Nam, and urge the immediate release of Angela Davis as well as that of other Americans imprisoned and inhumanly treated for standing for peace, justice and social progress.

Scanning the Saigon Press

HIROSHIMA, My Country!

NIXON and his men always claim that the Americans have come to our country to defend its independence, territorial integrity and democracy. If it is so, it is simply unimaginable that the Vietnamese chiefly those who live in the shadow of the huge US expeditionary forces in occupied urban centres — are not grateful for this service.

However, the US embassy in Saigon has deemed it advisable to warn its American residents, military and civilian alike, not to roam alone in the streets even in the heart of Saigon to avoid acts of Vietnamese hostility. The American press has many a time revealed, not without bitterness, that anti-Americanism has been spreading day by day in South Viet Nam and has reached the Saigon select circles.

Even in the US-controlled Saigon press, this anti-Americanism finds its expression.

Below is the translation of the article "Hiroshima, My Country!" appearing in the Saigon vernacular paper *Tin Sang* (Morning News) on August 30 last.

To Masako Yamanuschi,

I do not wish to let this month elapse without saying something to Hiroshima, that gaping wound on the earth and on the conscience of mankind.

Twenty-five years have passed by since that ignoble date of August 6, 1945 — ignoble not for the Japanese people, and lesser still for the 71,000 Hiroshima people suddenly reduced to ashes, or bloody mud, or into half-dead, half-living monstrosities which cause so much suffering to the land of the Rising Sun—but ignoble for the progress of a science and technology harnessed to the service of the stronger.

On the occasion of this anniversary, General Paul Tibbetts, then commanding the squadron which dropped the first A bomb, said to a BBC *correspondent: "I think that our mission was indispensable because it saved many human lives." (*)*

Yes, human lives saved by nuclear bombs, dear General Tibbetts! We, people more backward than the Japanese, we are "fed up" with your humanitarianism!

[The author then recalls that if the A bomb was dropped by Washington, it was not for military purposes since Japan was by then ready to capitulate; US imperialism only wanted to show its muscles and frighten the Soviet Union and the world revolutionary forces.]

Hiroshima, then Nagasaki, were sacrificed for that "peace in supremacy and forces." For US imperialism, "to save many human lives" is simply to save the lives of some Americans. Even on the American land, the lives of the Red Indians formerly and those of Black people today are not worth a farthing.

And it is patent that the US still cleaves to that "life-saving" policy. Fifteen years after the liberation of Italy by the US army, I had the opportunity of scouring that country on motorbike; I came to know the impression the Italian people still kept of this liberation. Before reaching a target, the Yankees carried out an indiscriminate destructive bombing to secure the maximum security in the occupation of a place... in ruins. This is the tactics of "light damage for us and immense losses for them, civilian or military alike," as they would say, or as one of our sayings runs: "A cut on the finger of a rich man is as serious as a gash in the belly of a beggar."

It was the cases of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

And now it is that of Viet Nam, my native land. Six million tons of bombs dumped on this land! And six million others stored here and there, ready for use! On account of this, the average "individual ration" for the Vietnamese, in the North as in the South, runs to 400 hilograms of bombs per head...; and the US is proud of a favourable "kill ratio" of 1 to 10. But what does this "10" represent? Is it possible that with "pacification" and "open arms," with the "victory" in all fields, the number of "kills" must be multiplied by ten on the NFL side? Neither the Ministry of Information nor the Psywar Department can accept such an interpretation. Nor can I. Thus it should be understood that of the ten "kills" caused by US bombs and shells as per American statistics, nine are innocent people.

And the same thing occurred in Italy and at Nagasaki and Hiroshima. I do not wish to let this month elapse without saying something to Hiroshima. But I realize suddenly why the Vietnamese press has been taken to task, though tacitly, for having kept mum about Hiroshima. Hiroshima is not a remembrance. It is the present. But how can we still have time to recall it? Our people is experiencing another Hiroshima. Over ten million tons of explosives, the equivalent of 500 Hiroshima bombs. Each year, our casualties are twice or three times as many as Hiroshima's.

When does this US "saving of many human lives" method stop? How many more dozen Hiroshimas on this land will have to die such a disgusting death.

Hiroshima, my country!...

(*) Retranslated from the Vietnamese.

STAGES AND PROBLEMS...

(Continued from page 3)

During the war, enterprises of all sizes were destroyed by bombings; others were dispersed while new ones were built. Work was done in very hard conditions.

However, despite fiercer and fiercer air raids, industrial production was kept going. Heavy industry continued to supply equipment and materials to national defence, agriculture, light industry, transport and communications. As the requirements then were greater than in peace time, particular attention was paid to the development of engineering, backbone of the national economy.

Light industry which got its raw materials almost entirely from agriculture, maintained the flow of consumer goods to the people. Tea, soap, sugar, tobacco, paper, school articles, textiles, foods, soft drinks continued to be produced, not without a hitch, in factories scattered everywhere and split into small units. Of course difficulties were many: lack of electric power, of skilled workers because many of them had joined the army, delay in the supply of fuel and raw materials due to bombardments and lack of transport means. However, the essential was that production was not halted and the minimum needs of the population were seen to and exchanges between towns and country remained uninterrupted.

Within the framework of the establishment of new local economic units which, having their own industry, agriculture, finances, transports and markets, had to provide the economic and military branches what they needed, according to the principle of new managerial and technical decentralization, efforts had to be focused on the expansion of local industry including handicrafts.

To this end, each region, each province had to build its own industrial and handicraft complex whose structure was conditioned by local peculiarities: manpower, raw materials, capitals, electric power, etc. In general, they were small enterprises equipped with some engines and small apparatuses turning out farm implements, means of transport and communication, and producing such commodities as tea, sugar, farinaceous foods, cigarettes, matches, orangeade and other soda waters, liqueur, various sauces, cotton goods, sewing thread, soap; carried on bicycles, wheelbarrows or sampans, these goods were made available in the shortest time. Though the quality was indifferent and the package primitive, yet the peasants were content to see their rice, potatoes, sugar cane, citrus sold in the form of manufactured products on moderate prices. The watchword was "to find supplies on the spot."

To develop local industry to the full, important sums were earmarked for that sector: 25.9 per cent of capitals invested in regional capital construction (economic and cultural), in 1965 and 31 per cent in 1966, against 11 per cent in 1960 and 20.3 per cent for the four years ending 1964. At the end of 1966, the value of its output rose by 50 per cent over that of total industrial and handicraft production in the country.

The urgent task then being the production of foodstuffs, local industry must supply agriculture with mechanical and semi-mechanical facilities and improved implements in order to raise its labour productivity. Emphasis was laid on the development of local engineering with the assistance of centrally-run industry. In all provinces and towns, small and medium-size engineering workshops equipped with handicraft, mechanical and semi-mechanical means, forming a network spreading from provinces to districts and villages and providing agricultural co-operatives sometimes with small 5-20 HP engines, and chiefly hand carts, improved ploughs, harrows and hoes, huskers, winnowers, threshers, shelling machines, insecticide sprayers, fodder grinders, agricultural product-processing apparatuses, sickles, picks, shovels, etc. The share of production of local industry for agriculture increased by 39.2 per cent in 1965 and 44.7 per cent in 1966 compared with the previous years.

From 1965 to 1968, North Viet Nam industry successfully withstood the US air strikes. Compared with 1960, industrial and handicraft output in 1968, the last war year, rose to 69 per cent. Thanks to the efforts of the Vietnamese and the effective aid of other socialist countries, the maintenance of industrial production made it possible for North Viet Nam to fully play its role of great rear-base of the whole embattled country. The socialist structures showed all their efficiency.

THE halt of US bombings, which did not mean the end of the war, however created new conditions to expand industry. The damage caused by savage uninterrupted bombardment was heavy; many installations were destroyed. There will be no end to the comments to be made on the criminal character of the aggression of an industrial superpower against a country which had just begun building its initial industrial bases.

Over the last fifteen years, chiefly the war years, the Vietnamese Party and people have gained much experience in industrialization whose fundamental problems as the role of heavy industry, the place of light industry, handicrafts, co-ordination between centrally-run industry and local industry, organizational and managerial problems, planning and the workings of the law of value, can now be studied in the light of the Vietnamese people's own experience and of that of the brother socialist countries as well. The first five-year plan (1961-1965) was the first important landmark in industrialization. In the seventies, the country enters a new stage in its industrial construction.

South Viet Nam

Fascism and Repression in US-Puppet-Held Areas

THE Saigon weekly *Dai Dan Toc* (Great Nation) wrote on Oct. 18, 1970: "The Thieu-Ky administration is not trusted by the people. It has never worked out a policy to raise their living standard. Its response to all their grievances has been brutal police actions..."

Developments in Saigon in the first three weeks of November have substantiated this.

REPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE

AS the sentence against "MP" Tran Ngoc Chau had been cancelled by the "Supreme Court" as "unconstitutional," on Nov. 14, Nguyen Van Thieu asked the Saigon "National Assembly" for the permission to prosecute him for the third time, which the rubberstamp body granted (Nov. 19).

In the first 21 days of November, 35 issues of papers were seized. Two papers were fined, the *Thoi Dai* (Time) 100,000 piastres, and the *Dan Y* (People's Will) 200,000 piastres (Nov. 10). 4 dailies and 1 weekly were arraigned (Nov. 18).

On Nov. 10, two students were arrested at their school, one was a member of his school's committee of action, and the other its secretary general. On Nov. 16, the Students' General Association revealed that the President of the Can Tho Students' General Association had been kidnapped and reported missing for two weeks now. In addition, 6 students including two leaders were summoned before the "Saigon tribunal" (Nov. 13). Strongly objected to, the trial was postponed.

Public opinion was shocked at the puppet authorities' murdering of the family of war invalid Nguyen Van Ich at Tan Phu hamlet near Long Thanh townlet, Long Khanh province, as an intimidation against the disabled's movement. On Nov. 4, his four children were killed, his wife wounded and he himself had his remaining arm broken.

In the "Campaign for the People," up to Nov. 17, the Saigon authorities boasted they had "settled" 143,502 cases of arrest and house search, and had prosecuted 4,000 people.

In a reportage headlined "Around the Campaign for the People," the Saigon *Tin Sang* (Morning News) wrote on October 27 as follows:

"The police manhandled nearly all the inhabitants of Nguyen Trung Ngan street, most of them women; even sexagenarian women received at least two slaps in the face each. Policemen dragged Miss Tran Thi Tien by the hair out of her house, and beat her black and blue. Leaving her moaning with pain, they demolished her house, and her two-year-old child who was inside had his head hit by a 4-inch nail on a falling beam. His father, a Vietnamese of Nung stock, named Son U, is now serving in a para-battalion at Kontum..."

PROTEST OF TOWNSFOLK

THE fortnight-long strike of 20,000 workers of the RMK-BRJ causing heavy damage to the firm compelled its managers to meet some of the workers' claims, such as:

— Right to sick-leave.

— Overtime pay to employees working on holidays;

— Ambulance facilities for labour accident victims.

But the consideration of a wage-lift was postponed. When the workers resumed work on Nov. 12, intimidation or blandishment was used against the strike-committee members. On November 15, the shop stewards of many construction yards of this firm met to denounce the employers' move.

Actions for better living conditions also were staged in many other localities. On Nov. 12, workers at the South Korean KKK laundry began a long walk-out. On Nov. 15, 300 teachers from 142 private schools in Saigon-Gia Dinh met to appoint a "committee of action" and decided to go on strike in case their pay rise claim was not satisfied. On Nov. 16, 800 workers of the Esso firm downed tools for one day as a protest against reduction of their allowances.

Since the devaluation of the piastre, prices have been spiralling... On Nov. 12, the US Embassy admitted that in the previous week, prices of foodstuffs had shot up by 3.1 per cent and those of other commodities 1.9 per cent.

On Nov. 19 the "Committee for a Better Prison Regime in South Viet Nam" denounced the repressive measures of the puppet authorities with such slogans as:

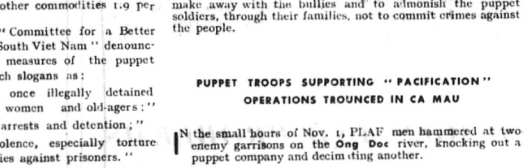
— "Set free at once illegally detained people, children, women and old-agers;"

— "Stop illegal arrests and detention;"

— "End all violence, especially torture and other brutalities against prisoners."

On Nov. 15, the "Union of Buddhist Employees and Women Employees" in Saigon urged that women's dignity be respected by the authorities.

The Saigon Students' General Association, the Committee of Co-ordination of Students' and Pupils' Action, the Committees of Action of various schools, the Committee of United Action of War Invalids for the Right to Live also held meetings to score the fascist character of the puppet regime.



US artillery base destroyed by PLAF men on **Hill 935** *(Ripcord), west of Thuo Thien province.*

FIERCE BATTLES IN THE MEKONG DELTA

SINCE early November, fierce battles have unfolded on the V-shaped land south of the Mekong Delta, especially in the provinces of Rach Gia and Ca Mau, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported.

Rach Gia province (on the Gulf of Thailand) shares the U Minh jungle with Ca Mau province.

ENEMY DEFENCE LINE ALONG XEO RO CANAL (RACH GIA) HEAVILY BATTERED

THE Xeo Ro canal, in An Bien district, **Rach Gia** province, was the site of grim engagements in November. On the night of Nov. 1, Battalion 41, Regiment 31, Division 21, coming to the rescue of the beleaguered garrisons in the area, was waylaid, taking over 100 casualties.

On Nov. 12, two enemy bases of the same canal were stormed, about one hundred enemy troops were put out of action including 40 technicians, a vessel was shelled, an ammunition depot, a fuel tank, a power station and many buildings were destroyed.

On Nov. 17, an adverse convoy of 7 war vessels was ambushed in the area of Post No 9: 2 ships sunk, many enemy casualties on board.

On the night of 19, the regional troops of An Bien district assaulted the garrison of Post No 7 on the same canal: all the local puppet authorities were liquidated, a Ranger Battalion wiped out, all "civil guard" organizations disbanded. Twenty sanguinary thugs were arrested, the other local authorities were set free on the spot after a short lecture.

The patriotic forces in An Bien district continued to harass the enemy on the Xeo Ro defence line with onsets on the gun emplacements and CP of Ranger groupment No 4 on the nights of Nov. 12 and 11. They also helped the inhabitants in strategic hamlets No 3, No 6 and the villages of Dong Hoa, Dong Thai, Dong Hung, Dong Yen to rise up and make away with the bullies and to admonish the puppet soldiers, through their families, not to commit crimes against the people.

PUPPET TROOPS SUPPORTING "PACIFICATION" OPERATIONS TROUNCED IN CA MAU

IN the small hours of Nov. 1, PLAF men hammered at two enemy garrisons on the **Ong Doc** river, knocking out a puppet company and decimating another.

On the night of Nov. 7, the enemy column escorting the "pacification" agents operating at My Hung village, Song Doc district, suffered 200 casualties.

On the night of Nov. 10, the field CP of Regiment 32, Division 21, and an artillery base, were hit: over 100 enemy soldiers were killed or wounded, 4 cannons, 2 ammunition depots and many barracks destroyed.

In co-ordination with these actions, the guerillas of Cai Nuoc and Tran Van Troi districts also took a heavy adverse toll: on Nov. 11, 13 and 15, 100 men of Division 21 were put out of action in small engagements.